RCMA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1979

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The RCMA Newsletter is published monthly by the members of the RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING ASSOCIATION, Post Office Box 4563, Anaheim, California 92803. Subscription rate/membership fee is $6.00 per year for US and Canadian residents; $18.00 for overseas residents. Information contained herein is primarily obtained from members and does not necessarily present the position or reflect the opinion of the RCMA as a whole. Reproduction of any material in this Newsletter is authorized providing the source is given credit (this excludes direct photocopying). THE BAY AREA SCANNERS CLUB is specifically welcome to use material from the RCMA Newsletter. APRIL 1979 ISSUE 4 VOL V COPY NO. 40

Message from the President

This is my first President's message in which I'll try to briefly fill you in on what's happening now, and what is being planned in the near future. I want to take this opportunity to thank ALL members for their participation in this election, by far the largest number of ballots cast in the history of the club. The new Board and I are working very closely together and many new ideas and programs will be introduced this year. With new people and new thoughts to work with, we will try to give you, the members, what you want. If you have any questions or constructive ideas, please let us know thru the mail.

At this time I would like to express sincere and warm appreciation to Dave Heywood, for his bold leadership and innovative ideas that he has established for the RCMA. Thank you very much, Dave. Also a big thanks to Les, Pete, Buck, and Russell Russell, from Canada, for their efforts in collecting and counting the ballots. This months newsletter was typed and put together by Bob's wife, Iden, & Jerry, and I personally thank each of you for your help. This year I plan on making each monthly meeting better than the one before. But I will need help from each of you, the members, for more club participation.

Don't forget.....next meeting, we plan on having Gene Hughes, author of the Southern California edition of Police Call as our guest speaker. In future months, I hope to have some exciting guests from several news organizations, and to arrange tours of several communications centers around Southern California.

Thanks again, and I'll see you at the April meeting.

Danny

RCMA MEETING:

Friday - April 20 - 8:00 PM
Mercury Savings & Loan
Valley View St./Lincoln Ave., Buena Park, CA

RESULTS OF ELECTION FOR RCMA OFFICERS:

President	Danny McLean	165
	Mike Musick	73
	Tom Bates	9
Vice President	Jerry Short	242
Secretary	Noel Robertson	133
	Don Gensicke	105
Treasurer	Karl Pagel	220
Member at Large	Bob Leef	176
	Gary Darcy	68
Advertising	Yes 150	No 89

There were 249 ballots cast, 248 of which were valid. Write-ins were Bill Brinkley, Tom Bates, Bob Leef, Don Rosenfield, Dave Heywood, and Stanley Sterling.

Ballot counters were Pete Coyle, Les Hefley, and Russell Russell - who came all the way from Canada!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO RUN FOR OFFICE !!

RCMA NEWSLETTER REORGANIZATION UPDATE

We still (March 21) are seeking an Editor. It would be most convenient if the Newsletter Editor were a resident of Orange County in California but members in other areas who express an interest in this "job" will be considered. When the multiple editor system gets into full swing the Editor would primarily assemble the typed material submitted by the Regional or Special Interest Editors. Some typing would be required but it would be minimal, at least compared to the previous one man editor system. Anyone who is interested or thinks he might be interested in being the Editor please contact me. (Phone # and address below.)

Last month a "Frequency" column and a "Systems Around the Country" column were proposed and each with its own editor. Several good suggestions were made by persons writing in and the following plan has evolved and seems to be a much better way to go. Since frequencies and radio systems details are rather closely related it was suggested that the two columns be combined into one. This, however, would be a lot of work for one person. It was suggested by another person to split the country up into regions and have regional frequency editors. Combining the two ideas, each regional editor would accept frequencies and radio system information from persons in his clearly defined geographical area consisting of several states. Each regional editor would screen, sort out, organize and type up photo-ready the frequencies and radio system details for his area. Going one step further each regional editor would then send his material to an overall frequency and systems editor who would piece it all together into a unified frequency and systems column. He in turn would send it to the Newsletter Editor. With this system, members would send their frequency or systems information or questions or answers to published questions to the regional frequency/systems editor who covers the geographical area to which the material pertains. This plan will require about six or so regional frequency/systems editors scattered around the country. California should probably have its own editor due to the degree of activity. If anyone would like to be a regional editor or the overall frequency/systems editor (as mentioned above) please contact me. It appears that we have three qualified and interested volunteers at this time, we need more.

While on the subject of frequencies, a standardized frequency reporting form to be used by members would have to be designed so that all listings by all regional editors would follow the exact same format. To make frequency listings of the most value to listeners the following information should when possible accompany each frequency submitted: 1) type of service (fire, sheriff, etc.), 2) station I.D. ("Station M", "San Bernardino", etc.), 3) station call sign, 4) station location or geographical area covered, 5) type of activity (main channel dispatch, car to car channel, detectives, etc.), 6. extent of activity, 7) times of greatest activity, 8) type of system (simplex, repeater output, repeater input, point to point link, etc.), 9) source of information (first hand monitoring, from a publication and which one, second hand from a friend, from the radio user such as a fireman, etc - knowing how the info was obtained is important). The report forms therefore should be designed with columns for the various types of information. Any interested members are encouraged to design a reporting form that they think would work out well and send it in (to the Riverside P.O. Box).

RCMA's Technical Editor, Chuck CA-OR-001, is an intelligent, well-informed electronic engineer, active monitor listener, and Extra Class amateur radio operator. We are indeed fortunate to have such a person for this position. All technical tips, technical articles, equipment reviews and technical questions should be sent directly to him and not

the RCMA P.O. Box: Chuck Smith, 4901 Heil Ave. #4C, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Technical material and questions can pertain to receivers, propagation theory, two-way radio system operations (repeaters, tones, links, etc.), preamps, antennas, accessory equipment, even conputer applications for monitoring. Chuck will sort out, review and doctor up as necessary all technical material sent to him that is worthy of publication. He will answer technical questions by way of the Newsletter if they deal with subjects presumed to be of interest to a sufficiently large portion of the membership. He will not be obligated to reply personally to questions by return mail though he may choose to do so on occasion. Questions he cannot answer will be printed in the Newsletter for one or two issues. Members who can answer the questions should write them up and send them directly to Chuck so that they can be printed.

If any member is reluctant to send in a question because he feels it is too elementary or too silly he can request to remain anonymous. Such a question can be printed without a name or directory number. Many such questions may very well not be too elementary or silly and the answers could possibly benefit others who have the same questions.

Technical questions and answers will be part of the Technical Column but the meat of it should be technical tips, technical articles, equipment reviews, etc. submitted by members. It is not the editor's job to generate all the material. Let's get the new Technical Column off to a good start by sending in material to Chuck.

As described in last month's Newsletter we still need editors for the following columns: MONITORING AND THE LAW, WANT ADS, CORRESPONDENCE, LOW BAND SKIP, and AIRCRAFT. The INFORMATION EXCHANGE column possibly will be deleted since technical questions, answers, and information will go to the Technical Editor and questions, answers, and information about aircraft will go the the Aircraft Editor, and questions, answers and information about frequencies and radio system details (beat areas, codes, repeaters, etc.) will go to the Regional Frequency/Systems Editors. It seems more appropriate for the individual editors to handle material that pertains to their areas of interest than for a separate Information Exchange Editor to do it.

Also, the Aircraft Editor should handle aircraft frequencies and radio systems, not the Regional Frequency Editors. Back the point, WE REALLY NEED QUALIFIED EDITORS FOR THESE COLUMNS. Editors must be willing to have their addresses published and be able to furnish a reasonably correct, good looking, type written, photo-ready product.

The multiple editor system will change and evolve as we go which can already be seen only after a month. If you want to suggest a type of column not previously mentioned, please send in your ideas. If you have a strong special interest, you could be a candidate for a special interest column editor. Possibilities might be Railroad or Marine or even Highway Patrol/State Police, each on a nationwide basis. For example a Highway Patrol/State Police Editor would deal exclusively with this subject state by state. Its success as a special interest column would of course depend greatly on member participation as is the case for most all of the columns.

What is photo-ready copy? The RCMA Newsletter is reproduced by offset printing. The masters are made by a photographic process directly from the pages sent to the printer. There is no typesetting and the

finished product appears just as the original except that in our case the printer makes an overall size reduction. Drawings and diagrams are also faithfully reproduced. Preparing photo-ready copy simply means that what is sent to the printer must be a final copy requiring no further changes. A cleanly and correctly typewritten page is "photo ready". There is more versatility to it than that. For example, if a typewritten page is prepared and later it is decided to add an additional paragraph in the middle it does not have to be done all over. The page is cut with scissors and the new paragraph is spliced in where desired and then the paper is joined by using "Scotch" tape on the backside. The splices do not show up (usually) in the printed product. Typing errors can be corrected if done neatly with such products as "Ko-Rec-Type" and "Liquid Paper". If a larger mistake is made in a paragraph a new corrected paragraph can be typed up and carefully pasted in place using a little rubber cement. Of course, the corrected paragraph cannot contain more lines or it won't fit. If any rubber cement should seep out under the paper edge it can be removed easily after drying by rubbing it with your finger or an eraser; it comes right off. So you can see that being a letter-perfect typist the first time around is not required at all. It is more a matter of being able to recognize errors and omissions and being able to correct them. The tricks of splicing, pasting, and correcting can easily be learned and take on a clearer perspective as soon as one realizes what is required by the printer. If any new editor or potential new editor has any questions about preparing photo-ready copy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is my understanding that in the recent past several members have expressed an interest in editing a column or in some way assisting with the Newsletter and that for the most part these persons did not even receive a response. If I were one of these persons I would be rather discouraged. If you were one of these persons, I invite you to contact me (Riverside P.O. Box), I will reply as promptly as I can.

An additional thought --- Does any Canadian member want to be a regional frequency/systems editor for Canada?? How about it?

Reorganizing and expanding the Newsletter can mean a big step forward for the club but help will be needed from the members, some as editors and many as writers of articles, tips, questions, answers, etc. We have a good thing going --- let's make it even better.

Concerning RCMA Newsletter editors and reorganization, please contact me: Iden, RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514 or phone (no collect calls) in the range of 4:30-8:30 PM Pacific Time and please not after 8:30 PM. Typewritten letters are encouraged from those who are interested in being an editor since it is necessary to evaluate typing skills and typewriters. I hope to hear from you. Iden CA-RI-001

"Information and Registration forms for the 1979 ANARC/Minneapolis super-convention are now ready. A very exciting all-wave agenda is being scheduled. Word of attendance have been received form Ian McFarland of Radio Canada International's DX Digest, Bob Zanotti of Swiss Radio International's Short Wave Merry-Go-Round and Steward Spencer of the Voice of America's Magazine Show. Tentative plans of attendance have been received from other international broadcasters and manufacturers. So mark June 22-24 on your calendar for North America's biggest gathering of radio listeners. For more information, send a large SASE to: Association of North American Radio Clubs, P.O. Box 14161, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. Those living in Canada may send a SASE to: 1979 ANARC Convention, P.O. Box 142, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7C 4V5."

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

I strongly agree with Chuck (CA-SC-002) in the February Newsletter, Accepting paid advertisements would most likely cause more problems than it would solve--do we currently have a(financial) problem?? If so, raise the dues a few dollars. Surely the members could kick in maybe $5 more per year... the price of just one monitor crystal! The Newsletter alone is worth it. Having been a member for several years, I've seen the Newsletter grow from a simple one-page affair to the magazine it is today. I find myself watching the mail for it days in advance.

I also agree that the RCMA should not expand to include Shortwave, FM-DXing, etc. We have spread so far geographically--over 1/3 of the members live outside California--that to add other categories of interests would certainly dilute the monitoring aspect and destroy the club. Those of us with these other hobbies already have other organizations. RCMA can't possibly be everything to everyone, so let's stay within the club's original framework: "VHF, UHF and Aircraft Monitoring."

Harry Marnell
CA-LA-037

I am writing in response to Ron (CA-LA-060) regarding his questions about the Los Angeles Police Department.

1. a. A CODE "NORA-8" is a citywide code meaning a burglary is happening at location number 8. In the roll call before each shift, field units are notified of which residences are suspected of being burglarized later that watch. Each residence is assigned a different number, so when a unit in the field broadcasts "CODE NORA-8", other units will know where to go and what to expect. It is done, obviously, so as to not tip the suspects off that the police has caught onto their act.

   b. I have never heard of a "CODE 26", and my explanation would be that it just was a simple numerical error.

   c. A CODE "RED" or a CODE "ADAM, MARY, CHARLES, KING, etc." signifies to a particular division that a specific occurance is happening or tells certain units to do something (go to the station, go to a location, whatever that division decides upon), all of which has been previously discussed in roll call or a meeting. Again, the reason for this is to keep secret the location and/or the incident It also is very brief and thus keeps the airways less congested.

2. Division 18 (southwest) was initiated last year and their mobile frequency is 5 (154.89 Mhz); their base frequency is C (159.18 Mhz).

3. Divisions 1 and 13 (central and newton, respectively) are dispatched on UHF. The main reason why one may hear the dispatcher on VHF is because there are many miscellaneous units in those areas without UHF capabilities and they need to keep abreast on what is happening, too.

   Citywide implementation of the UHF ROVER (Remote Out of Vehicle Emergency Radio) frequencies should come in a couple of years. The new system, ECCCS (Emergency Command Control Communications System) is divided into four "Phases." Each phase generally represents one of [illegible] graphic bureaus being switched to the ROVER system. The first phase is central bureau (areas #1, 2 4, 11, 13), then valley bureau (#9, 10, 15, 16, 17), south bureau (#3, 5, 12, 18) comes third, and finally west bureau (#6, 7, 8, 14).

WAYNE
(CA-LA-119)

I have a question or two.

1. Does anyboy have what actual VHF frequencies are being used by the LAPD?
2. The CHP central LA office has added another tower with 3 dishes. Does anybody know what these are for?

Thanks for the help.

Robert Stoffel
OR 26

I am a member of RCMA from Arizona (AZ-003). I would like to see if at all possible a frequency list, giving freq of Southern California. Or if this is not possible, to have some one make up lists (xerox) so we out-of-state members could obtain them. The request for this is twofold: 1. Not all the freqs are printed in Police Call Southern Cal Edition. (I am referring to TAC, Special Problem units, etc). 2. I am thinking of moving to Southern California so I would want a better list. Do not get me wrong. The miscellaneous freq list is just great as it is. But I would think California members would like to share their own private lists with others instead of keeping them to themselves---as you are in violation of RCMA goal "To Share Information".

I also go along with "Stephen NY-06" in the February, 1979 Newsletter of printing Federal Government freq's for FBI, DEA, etc.

ERIC GASKELL
AZ-003

Campus police at California State University, Northridge (formerly Valley State) occasionally use LAPD frequencies in addition to their own 172.730. They're on Devonshire Division frequency D base and F-23 mobile. Unit designations are 17 V512, etc.

After reading in the December Newsletter about "Across the Dial", I sent for this booklet, which lists AM, FM, and TV stations for North America. My wife, Charlotte, and I took it with us on a 5000 mile driving vacation in the Southwest. We found it very hand-- and others will, too, if they travel and enjoy commercial radio and TV. It is well worth the $3.00 (postage included) cost. It can be ordered directly from: Broadcast Publications, Inc.
1735 DeSales St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

GENE
CA-LA-147

Regarding my previous correspondence about IL State Police transmitters, KSB 987 is definitely known as the "Rosecrans Scale" (State Police District 2 has been monitored here for several years and this is the first time I've heard Elgin mention "Rosecrans" as such.)

The recent blizzard provided for lots of radio traffic on all the local frequencies and especially the IL State Police car-car frequency 42.500. Almost all rural areas away from Oswego and the rest of the Fox River Valley were isolated for several days due to blocked roads (snow drifts and abandoned cars). Ron Smithberg (IL-009) will confirm this in his next communication, as the Joliet area was also hit quite hard. He heard the same things on 42.500 that I heard.
IL-012

NOTICE: THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER MAY BE MIXED UP AND CONTAIN TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS PUT TOGETHER BY AN ASSORTMENT OF PEOPLE UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

It's book review time. "Pressure Cooker, the Story of the Men and Women Who Control Air Traffic" by Don Biggs: W.W. Norton and Co., ISBN 0-393-08815-4 @1979, $9.95.

The author spent several months in LAX tower, approach/departure control, and L.A. Center. His observations apply equally as well to other cities. This book could serve as a text to aircraft monitoring. Much radio traffic is quoted. You'll learn the method behind the madness of getting planes in and out of a busy, overloaded airport. (You may become an Amtrack convert.)

I can vouch for the accuracy of his writing, as I monitored the O'Hare collision he writes of from the very beginning. I follow O'Hare activities with the help of FAA-NOAA Instrument Approach Procedure Charts, Sectional Aeronautical Charts, and VFR Terminal Area Charts. The inside front cover of the book reproduces part of the LA sectional. If you monitor U.S. civil aircraft, BUY THIS BOOK.

RCMA member Steven J. Handler is again publishing. His frequency book covers LF-HF-VHF-UHV. VHF-UHF fans will like his military listings. Much shortwave data might convince RCMA members to add this capability if they don't have it yet.

Gilfer Associates, Box 239, Park Ridge, N.J. 07656 offers a new edition of Confidential Frequency List by Robert B. Grove---another LF to UHF freqnecy listing. Although prior editions have not covered much VHF-UHF, the LF-HF stuff is intriguing. Gilfer also supplies active antennas that cover shortwave thru 80 mz. Write for their catalog.

EDWARD IL-004

I would like to trade tapes (conversation and communications) with any interested member. I especially desire those interested in DX and those of railroad communications. Drop me a letter -- or better yet -- a cassette! Keep up the fine publication, and let's hope that the "force is with us!"

MARK OH-001

I have been receiving your RCMAmonthly Newsletter for quite sometime. The information is very enlightening and I enjoy reading your publication.

We at Regency have never pursued or joined clubs, buying groups, or endorsed non-competitive products or publications. I just wanted you to know that I, personally, enjoy reading RCMA.

Sincerely,

W. KIRBY WEST
Sales Mgr., Regency Electronics
Consumer and Marine Products

L.A. FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPANDS EMERGENCY INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Los Angeles Fire Department has expanded its SigAlert procedures so more information about emergencies can be given immediately to citizens over commercial AM and FM radio stations, the department said Wednesday.

Information for broadcast includes estimated duration of the emergency, street closings, areas expected to sustain storm or brush fire damage, voluntary and mandatory evacuation areas and centers and where items such as sand bags are available.

A. R. Evansen, commander of operations for the Fire Department, said the SigAlerts will be broadcast by the Los Angeles Police Department radio, which is monitored by 16 AM stations and 23 FM stations.

RON (CA-LA-60)
From the Los Angeles Times, January 28, 1979

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA — AL (AZ-001)

SO	MARICOPA CO	WEST	1		R	460.050
"	"	WEST-CHASE	2		R	460.100
"	"	EAST	3		R	460.150
"	"	NARCOTICS?	4		R	460.200
"	"	DETECTIVES	5		R	460.175
"	"	EAST-CHASE	6		R	460.075
"	"	COMMANDERS	7		R	460.125
"	"	SEARCH & RESCUE	8		R	159.090
"	"	TRI-CITY			R	460.250

PITTSBURGH & PHILADELPHIA, PA — GARY (PA-009)

PD	PITTSBURGH	STATIONS 1-6	1		R	453.100
"	"	STATIONS 7-9	2		R	453.250
"	"	DETECTIVES	3		R	453.400
"	"	TRAFFIC INFO	4		R	453.550
FD	"	DISPATCH			R	154.130
PD	PHILADELPHIA	NORTH			R	453.050
"	"	CENTRAL			R	453.150
"	"	NORTH CENTRAL			R	453.200
"	"	EAST			R	453.300
"	"	WEST			R	453.350
"	"	DETECTIVES "H"			R	453.400
"	"	SOUTHWEST			R	453.500
"	"	EMERGENCY "M"			R	453.550
"	"	EMERGENCY "M"			R	453.600
"	"	SOUTH			R	453.650
"	"	ADMIN			R	453.750
"	"	NORTHWEST			R	453.800
"	"	NORTHEAST			R	453.950
"	"	TRAFFIC			R	453.250
FD	"	DISPATCH			B	154.235

CENTRAL FLORIDA — JOHN (FL-001)

PD	ORLANDO	DISPATCH (TT)	1	KQP517	R	460.050
"	"	DISPATCH (EAST)	2			460.100
"	"	DISPATCH (WEST)	3			460.400
"	"	DISPATCH (ADMIN)	4	KWO337		460.450
"	"	DISPATCH (DET)	5			460.425
SO	ORANGE COUNTY	DISPATCH (ADMIN)	1	KRZ951	R	460.025
"	"	DISPATCH (WEST)	2			460.125
"	"	DISPATCH (TT)	3			460.175
"	"	DISPATCH (EAST)	4			460.275
"	"	DISPATCH (DET)	5			460.475
HP	CENTRAL FL	BASE			B	45.06
		MOBILE			M	44.90
"	"	BASE			B	154.665
		MOBILE			M	155.505
"	"	BASE			B	154.695
		MOBILE			M	155.460
"	"	BASE			B	154.680

SAN LUIS OBISPO CO, CA — JACK (CASL001)

SO	SLO COUNTY	DISPATCH	BLUE	KXM820		460.150
"	"	SECONDARY	RED	KXM820		460.050
"	"	SECONDARY	YELLOW	KXM820		460.475
"	"	CLEMARS	WHITE			460.025
COFD	"	DISPATCH		KXC916		154.385
PD	SAN LUIS OBISPO	DISPATCH		KXM761	BR	460.375
UNIV	CAL-POLY	CAMPUS PD		KMG999		460.250
UNIV	CAL-POLY	CAMPUS FD		KAF957		154.205
PD	PASO ROBLES	DISPATCH	BLUE	KZM751	BR	460.125
FD/LG	"	DISPATCH		KML787		155.940
PD	PISMO BEACH	DISPATCH		KZM760	BR	460.175
FD	"	DISPATCH		KDX424		154.145

NORTHERN CALIF — BOB (CAYO001)

SO	YOLO COUNTY	DISPATCH	1	KMA871	R	154.800
SO	"	MUT AID W/WOODLAND	2		M	155.055
SO	"	MUT AID W/UC DAVIS	3		M	155.535
SO	"	SECONDARY (CLEMARS)	4		BM	154.920
SO	CONTRA COSTA CO	EAST/WEST/SOUTH	1	KMA371	BM	155.190
SO	"	NORTH/CENTRAL	2	KMA371	BM	155.640
SO	"	COORD W/PLEASANT HILL	3	KMA371	BM	155.310
SO	"	COORD W/MARTINEZ	4	KMA371	BM	155.880
SO	"	CAR-TO-CAR, SECONDARY	5	KYD927	BM	155.040

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CA — PAUL (CASM007)

SO	SAN MATEO CO	PRIMARY	1	KMA455		488.9875
SO	"	SECONDARY	2	KMA455		488.3875
SO	"	DETECTIVES	3	KMA455		45.66
PD	REDWOOD CITY	PRIMARY	1	KMA663	BM	154.860
PD	"	CO WIDE SECONDARY	2	KMA663	BM	155.070
FD	"	DISPATCH	1	KMF960		153.890
FD	"	MUTUAL AID	2	KMF960		154.280
LG	"	PRIMARY		KJ9362		453.550

FREQUENCY NEWS -- TV CHANNEL 14 RESERVE POOL "A" NOW IN USE

P	Cicero IL	DISPATCH	B/MR	471.2625
	Berwyn IL	DISPATCH	B/MR	471.2625
P	Elmwood Pk IL	DISPATCH	B/MR	471.2875
	River Grove IL	"	"	"
	Norridge IL	"	"	"
	Harwood Hts. IL	"	"	"
P	Melrose Pk IL	DISPATCH	B/MR	471.2375
	Stone Pk IL	"	"	"
	Franlin Pk IL	"	"	"
	Northlake IL	"	"	"
P	Rosemont IL	DISPATCH	B/ MR	470.4875
	Park Ridge IL	"	"	"

All above carry 8 CH portables for mobile frequency and talk-around on the base chanel. Radios of about 12 cities-towns are interchangeable.

EDWARD (IL-004)

SKIP:

Here are a couple queries I wish to make to the membership at large:

1. During recent F2 skip openings, I have noticed while searching a couple of "unusual" frequencies--one is on 40.62 MHz. It is nothing but continual "beeps" and cannot tell if it is some type of "beacon" or telemetry signal.
2. Another strange one is on 41.63 MHz. I am sure this is a telemetry signal as it has the characteristic "buzz" to it. Any ideas as to where from???? ANY HELP ON EITHER ONES?!!!

Now if members want a real "thrill' try for 41.25 and 41.50 MHz! (East coast members stand a far better chance.) They are respectively: French TV (Channel 2) and BBC-1 (Channel 1) audio signals. I have tried with my BC-250; however, they both must use some type of "offset" as when I use a tunable receiver, audio comes in so crystal clear. YES! It's going to be a great VHF DXing year! L.A. County S.O. 39MHz freqs have been received nearly on a daily basis, with 42 MHz on occasion. Any west coast listeners having any luck with Latin America or Hawaii or farther? Don't keep it to yourself, guys!

MARK OH-001

"Skip" sure seems to be rolling in on the LO-VHF band here in Northern Ohio. I myself have heard various departments from the Los Angeles area on 39.44 MHZ, and on several of the Ohio State Patrol frequencies for this area. Units of the OSP are having problems with the "Skip", and at least one dispatcher confirmed hearing a LA unit on their frequency.

Just this morning, a OSP unit was overheard to ask his dispatcher, "Am I crazy, or are you picking up that French radio station on this frequency, too?" And the dispatcher replied that she had. Some skip!!

I am really enjoying my membership in the RCMA, and look forward to receiving the Newsletter each month, and am still awaiting my copy of the Membership Directory.

If anyone there in Southern California can confirm the use of the following LO-VHF frequencies by any Southern California units, it would be appreciated: 39.44; 42.56; 44.74; or 44.94.

LARRY OH-002

Club member IL-012 checking in with some items of interest:

"Skip" Traffic: On 1/28/79 a base station believed to be located in Brazil was monitored here at 0955 CST on 42.600 mhz. Language used was definitely Portuguese (NOTE: The local area state police patrol car "confirmed" reception of same, but the District 5 State Police at Joliet was unable to hear the "Brazilian", yet Joliet is only 18 miles southeast of here!)

"Skip" Traffic: CA-"Novato City of" .. Their PD continues to be heard here from time to time on 39.820 mhz around 1200 CST (but heard as late as 1530 CST). I did send off a "reception report" with complete details of monitoring activity, including details of RCMA membership, along with a SASE. As the "10 codes" are quite different than those in use here, I did ask for a copy. A prompt reply was received from a "W. Brown" and consisted of the "10 codes" that I needed to understand their radio traffic with a note stating same. I was quite surprised to receive a reply and a "thank you" post card was promptly dispatched.

Member IL-12 checking in with some items of interest for the Newsletter.

The Chicago FD shift to 800 mhz was foretold in the November, 1977 issue of CB Radio S9 magazine's "Monitoring Post" column. For those members who have retained that particular issue the same column also provided an interesting article about frequency revisions in the 470-512 mhz bands. Conclusions: It's about time that our illustrious scanner manufacturers get off their dead--- and give us some 800 mhz gear. This portion of the radio spectrum is alive and well!! (We listeners are going to get caught short soon.)

Regarding the inquiry in the February Newsletter--have Bob (KS-001) contact me. I will gladly provide detailed information on Illinois State Police frequencies. Bob (WI-001) can provide the same information for Wisconsin and Minnesota. We've already exchanged notes.

February 18 and 19 were "CHP Days" at this location. The 18th brou brought reception of CHP stations in our area from San Francisco north to the state line. the 19th was just spectacular, as virtually the entire state was heard from (Everything from L.A. on north)! This monitor didn't have enough extra frequency capacity to cover all of the frequency "pairs". (P.S. Your troopers like to listen to and talk "skip"--whether TN, SC, MN, IL or whatever).

That's all for now.

JOHN ARENDT
IL -12

Motorola has recently announced a new Digital Voice Protection (DVP) system and Salt Lake City is the first city in the U.S. to install this new digital system. They are operating on an FCC okay and claim that the system "offers public safety users the highest level of voice security ever commercially available." The new system works with portables, mobiles, base stations, repeaters and control stations.

The system converts regular speech into "digital" speech using Continuously Variable Slope Delta modulation (CVAD).

Motorola has sold systems to Boston, New York City, St. Louis, Clearwater and Los Angeles County.

Digital Mobile terminals provide another approach to communications security and at the same time providing a printed message at both ends of the system. With digital data systems, messages and responses travel over the air in bursts. In addition, custom coding can be applied to make it difficult for scanner receivers to decode the messages. Civilian mobile digital terminals are largely a fall-out of military technology. First developed for the Army in 1967 as a backup for various hardwired means of battlefield communications, the terminals were adapted for public safety departments in 1969.

Messages from the patrol car's display-equipped terminal to the police station are of two varieties. The first is a "canned" message indicating status--such as "enroute" or "at the scene". The second is a pre-formatted request--such as "send the name of the owner of this car with license number XYZ and tell me if it has been reported stolen". For the first message type, the police computer updates its file to list the current vehicle status. For the second type, a search of state, regional, or national police is instituted, depending on how fully an individual computer is connected to, say, the U.S. National Crime Information System (NCIC System). A full rundown on the suspect vehicle is then delivered to the arresting officer. On an uniterrupted channel at normal speeds of 2400 bits per second, nine seconds is the average time it takes to make a complete vehicle check.

The cost of such systems are high. For example, 50 terminals cost about $350,000 (exclusive of transmitters and receivers). In Northbrook, Ill. where such a system has been installed, the cost is $1.00/car/shift/year when added to an existing computer system. Argentina has been the largest customer for one company's system. The mobile digital terminal is unofficially credited with aiding in the fight against urban guerillas in that country.

It would seem that digital data systems are on the horizon, but, due to cost, they will be accepted more slowly than voice scrambler systems.
WARREN (CA-SM-005) from BAYSCAN #17, November. 1978.

Being a member of RCMA here in Illinois, I have had the pleasure of communicating with two other members in my area, namely, John Arendt IL-012 and Mike Yanul IL 014. By joining this great club, I have been able to share my information about our hobby with them. John IL-012 and I have gotten together twice and have enjoyed discussing our hobby and John has an excellent idea about getting a few Illinois members together this summer for a possible parlay and info exchange. Mike Yanul and I have written to each other and he sent me a terrific package which included excellent information on the Chicago Fire Department.

This scanner club has achieved a wonderful purpose for me, for it has abled me to converse with some fantastic people interested in my hobby and to exchange valuable information to further my listening advantage. Sure would be exciting to make one of the meetings in person in California in the future. Until then, we here in Illinois will try to keep this club a success.
Ronald Smithberg IL-009

As of 3/26/79, RCMA has 617 members in 44 states and 4 foreign countries.

ALABAMA 3	MAINE 3	OKLAHOMA 2
ARIZONA 5	MARYLAND 8	OREGON 6
ARKANSAS 1	MASSACHUSETTS ...9	PENNSYLVANIA 13
CALIFORNIA ..397	MICHIGAN 8	RHODE ISLAND 1
COLORADO 3	MINNESOTA 2	SOUTH CAROLINA 2
CONNECTICUT ...4	MISSISSIPPI 1	TENNESSEE 1
DELAWARE 3	MISSOURI 3	TEXAS 6
FLORIDA 10	MONTANA 1	VIRGINIA 7
GEORGIA 2	NEBRASKA 1	WASHINGTON 1
IDAHO 2	NEVADA 2	WEST VIRGINIA 1
ILLINOIS 22	NEW HAMPSHIRE ...2	WISCONSIN 6
INDIANA 9	NEW JERSEY 13	ALASKA 1
IOWA 5	NEW YORK 26	ARUBA,NETH ANTILLES..1
KANSAS 2	NORTH CAROLINA ..5	CANADA 14
KENTUCKY 1	NORTH DAKOTA 1	BERMUDA 1
LOUISIANA 2	OHIO 7	MEXICO 1

New Members

CA CC 004 William Gillham, 535 Dimm Street, Richmond, CA 94805
CA LA 169 Frank, Los Angeles, CA 90024
CA LA 170 Jim, Long Beach, CA 90815
CA LA 171 Jim Thomson, 4012 W 133rd Street #3, Hawthorne, CA 90250
CA LA 172 Vic, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
CA LA 173 Robert, Reseda, CA 91335
CA LA 174 Robert Thomson, 4771-J La Villa Marina, Marina del Rey, CA 90291
CA LA 175 Chris, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
CA LA 176 Henry Sands, PO Box 1586, Lancaster, CA 93534
CA OR 109 Gene Thorpe, 3414 W Gregory Ave, Fullerton, CA 92633
CA OR 110 Michael Daniels, 3181 W Del Monte Dr, Anaheim, CA 92804
CA SF 001 Frank King, jr., 2280 Jackson Street #3, San Francisco, CA 94115
DE 003 Michael Mayer, 1411 W 4th Street, Wilmington, DE 19805
FL 002 Stephen Knight, 4746 Norwood Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32206
IA 005 Dennis Heins, PO Box 169, Spencer, IA 51301
IL 018 Fred, Chicago, IL 60617
IL 019 Edward Hornby, 647 Sedgwick Dr, Libertyville, IL 60048
IL 020 William Blomgren, 505 E Mulberry #3, Normal, IL 61761
IL 021 Richard Mies, sr, 8026 S Kolmar Ave, Chicago, IL 60652
IL 022 Daniel Griffin, RR #1, Box 47, Marion, IL 62959
IN 008 Thomas Marcinko, RR #6, Frankfort, IN 46041
IN 009 Harry Short, 403 Forest Hill Dr, West Lafayette, IN 47906
MI 007 Larry McCray, 303 Lincoln Ave, Clawson, MI 48017
NY 026 Edward Dunnavant, jr, 240 Crown Street, Apt 4-W, Brooklyn, NY 11225
OH 007 Richard, Alliance, OH 44601
OK 002 Dennis Werblo, 2420½ Marshall Drive, Edmond, OK 73034
PA 013 Armand DiFilippo, 1825 S Rosewood Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145
VA 007 John Lackmann, 509 S Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450

Address Changes

CA KE 002 Fred, is now CA LA 168
MI 007 Kevin, is now CA ME 004
CA YO 001 Bob, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
CA SF 002 Dennis Edwards, is now NY 021
CA LA 112 Bill, Bell, CA 90201
CA VE 005 Randy, is now OR 001

PUBLICATIONS

BEHIND THE DIAL: Technical and frequency data--info on assignments, equipment, etc. 73 Magazine, Peterborough, NH 03458.

BEARCAT OPERATING FREQUENCIES: Local frequency guides in Zip Code groupings. FREE from the Electra Company. Write or call Betty Bearcat for free phone frequency info and lists.

CRB COMM DIRECTORIES: Local frequency guies and regional specialty listings. CRB Research, Inc. POB 56, Commack, NY 11725. $3.00 per copy for most lists, $4.00 & $5.00 for some; send SASE for catalog.

POLICE CALL: Radio Directories--regional volumes for public safety, etc. US Radio Data, Dept. W. Lebanon, NJ 08833. $4.95 per copy -- annual (9 vols. for 48 states; add $1.00 for mail order).

POLICE CALL: Southern California Detail Edition--local system/channel details. California Radio Communicationc So. POB 35102, Los Angeles, CA 90035. $5.50 per copy -- annual.

RADIO WAVEGUIDE: San Diego Edition--local system/channel details. Scanner Master Co., 4265 35th St., San Diego, CA 92104. $6.25 per copy--annual.

SCANNER MATE: Radio Directories--regional volumes for PS, trains, taxis, etc. Scanner Mate Directores, Inc., 172 High St., Hartford, CT 06103. $4.95 per copy--annual (7 vols. for 48 states; add $1.00 for mail order).

COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING AND COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS, by Bob Grove to be released soon from Hayden Books.

A GUIDE TO VOICE SCRAMBLERS, Stock # 003-003-01735-5, Supt. of Documents, Washington, DC 20402. Price: $1.05.

"SIGNAL 10-11: Manual for Monitoring the Calif. Hwy. Patrol--system/channel details.

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